



**BS/CT/WG/R(2005)2**

**REPORT OF THE  
MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON  
COOPERATION IN TOURISM**

**Chisinau, 7 - 8 October 2005**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism was held in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, on 7 – 8 October 2005.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Artur COZMA, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Moldova and Mrs. Tatiana LAPICUS, Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Moldova.
3. H.E. Mr. Artur COZMA, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Moldova delivered an opening statement.
4. Mr. Athanasios ZACHAROGLU, Head of the International Relations Department of the Ministry of Tourism of the Hellenic Republic was representing in the Meeting the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism.
5. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:
  - Republic of Azerbaijan
  - Republic of Bulgaria
  - Hellenic Republic
  - Republic of Moldova
  - Romania
  - Russian Federation
  - Republic of Turkey
  - Ukraine
6. The representative of the BSEC Business Council (BSEC BC) also participated in the Meeting.
7. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex II.

## **REVIEW OF INFORMATION ON NATIONAL POLICIES AND SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN BSEC COUNTRIES**

8. Representatives of BSEC Member States made presentations on the ways that sustainable tourism is being developed in their countries. They also exchanged some ideas on the best practice to be followed.

## **COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF WINE ITINERARIES DEVELOPMENT - LEGAL FRAMEWORK, RELEVANT EXPERIENCES IN WINE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT, POSSIBILITY OF CREATION OF A REGIONAL WINE ROUTE**

9. The delegation of the Republic of Moldova presented an in-depth prescription and analysis on the Wine Itineraries development in different regions of the country. The electronic version of the presentation was distributed to the participants of the Working Group in the form of package tour for foreign and domestic guests with the kind request to present such tours to their national travel agencies.

10. The representative of the BSEC Business Council mentioned that there is an expert on Wine Itineraries working in BSEC PERMIS – Mr. Kostantinos ZAIMIS, Project Coordinator, and proposed that he be involved in the development process.

## **PROGRESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE BSEC TOURISM COOPERATION SINCE ITS ADOPTION IN MARCH 2005**

11. The Working Group appreciated in particular the information provided by the Hellenic Delegation on the organization of a seminar for training 2-3 trainers from each BSEC Member State in Athens from 6 till 17 November 2005, on the progress of works for the reconstruction of the legendary ship “ARGO”, by which a revival of the expedition of the Argonauts in the Black Sea will be launched in 2006, as well as on the process of establishing the Standing Secretariat on cooperation in tourism, in accordance with the relevant Resolution of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States (Komotini, 23 April 2005), taking into account the Hellenic legal framework. The complete progress report of the Hellenic delegation is attached as Annex III.

12. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey proposed to organize a four day training plan on the Diversification of Tourism Product by replacing the Ecotourism Course proposed in Rhodos on the Meeting of the Working Group on 29-30 March 2005. The said training plan will also include the Case Study (Ayaş – Sapanca Corridor of the Silk Road). The course will be convened on May or June 2006. The information on the proposal is attached as Annex IV.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

13. The delegation of the Russian Federation invited the participants to the most important tourism event of their country entitled “INTOURMARKET”, which will take place in Moscow on 19-22 March 2006.

14. The delegation of Romania proposed to convene a BSEC Forum on Tourism during their Chairmanship-in-Office (November 2005 through April 2006). The exact information on this meeting will be communicated to the BSEC Member States through the BSEC PERMIS in due time.

#### **DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

15. The Romanian side will reconfirm soon its willingness to organize the next meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism in April 2006. The exact date and venue of that Meeting will be communicated to the Member States through BSEC PERMIS in due course.

#### **EXPRESSION OF THANKS**

16. The Participants expressed deep gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Moldova for its successful BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office and its contribution to the promotion of the BSEC goals as well as for the hospitality extended to the delegations and the excellent organization of the Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism in Chisinau.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

17. The Working Group adopted the present Report and submitted it for consideration to the Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States to be held in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, on 28 October 2005.